

Of these objectives, employment is one of the most important. To lead more successful lives, disabled Americans must be part of the work force. Progress has been made; many more employers are hiring these quality workers. These employers are part of the growing number who realize they are not "giving" someone a job, but increasing the value of their company or business by hiring a dedicated, skilled employee.

Despite these advances, employment of disabled men and women lags behind that of the general working-age population. There is an urgent need for the private sector to take the lead in offering jobs that provide individual dignity and enable disabled men and women to support their families. There is also a need for state and local governments to employ fresh approaches and renewed energy in cooperation with the private sector to expand handicapped employment opportunities, and for the Federal government to streamline regulations in order to afford maximum benefit for handicapped persons with a minimum of administrative burden.

We need to affirm the dignity and worth of all people in our society, whether or not they suffer from physical or mental disabilities, and we must firmly reject attitudes that deny the worth of handicapped individuals.

Congress has called for the designation of the first full week in October each year as National Employ the Handicapped Week (36 U.S.C. 155). This special week is a time for all Americans to renew our dedication to meeting the goal of increased opportunities for disabled citizens.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD REAGAN, President of the United States of America, do hereby designate the week beginning October 3, 1982, as National Employ the Handicapped Week.

I urge all governors, mayors, other public officials, leaders in business and labor, and private citizens to help meet the challenge of the future by ensuring that disabled people have the opportunity to participate fully in the economic life of the Nation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 13th. day of Sept., in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and seventh.

RONALD REAGAN

Proclamation 4966 of September 13, 1982

National Hospice Week, 1982

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

The hospice concept is rapidly becoming a part of the Nation's health care system. To direct the Nation's attention to the value of hospice care, the Congress, by joint resolution approved May 24, 1982 (S.J. Res. 170, Public Law 97-182), requested that the President proclaim the week of November 7 through November 14, 1982, as National Hospice Week.

Hospice provides a humanitarian way for a terminally ill patient to approach death with dignity, in relative comfort in a supportive atmosphere, and surrounded by family members. Its most important element is concern

for patients and their families. Hospice advocates personal care and concern, living comfortably until death, the absence of pain, maintenance of personal control, and the close fellowship of the family unit.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD REAGAN, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the week beginning November 7, 1982, as National Hospice Week. I urge all citizens, government agencies, the medical community, and appropriate private organizations to observe the week with forums, programs, and activities designed to encourage national recognition and support for the hospice care concept.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 13th. day of Sept. in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and seventh.

RONALD REAGAN

Proclamation 4967 of September 13, 1982

American Education Week, 1982

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

The wisdom and foresight of our Founding Fathers set in motion the greatness of America and the personal liberties we enjoy today. These blessings have thrived because of the value succeeding generations have placed on knowledge and education. For this reason alone, few matters are as critical to the future of our country than the continued success of our educational system.

Part of our national strength is the fact that parents have the right to oversee their children's education. While our states provide public schools and state and local educators assist parents in achieving educational goals, it is clearly the right and duty of parents to supervise these functions. Our tax system should ensure that effective parental choice in education is not the preserve of only the wealthy.

The timely theme for American Education Week this year is "A Strong Nation Needs Strong Schools." Every American should take this theme to heart and give renewed support to our schools, be they public, private, or synagogue or church-affiliated. Strong community support results in effective schools. Effective schools help assure that our democratic society will flourish.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD REAGAN, President of the United States of America, do hereby designate the week beginning November 14, 1982, and the second week of November of each succeeding year, as American Education Week.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 13th. day of Sept., in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and seventh.

RONALD REAGAN